



First biennial conference of the

EUROPEAN PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR
TRANSGENDER HEALTH

TRANSGENDER HEALTH CARE IN EUROPE

BOOK OF ABSTRACTS

**MARCH 12-14, 2015
GHENT, BELGIUM**

2. A parent-report gender identity questionnaire for children: preliminary analysis of the Italian version

Caldarera A., D. Marengo, Brustia P. & Cohen-Kettenis P.

Abstract

A consensus among the scientific community dealing with gender identity issues exists about the importance, both in the clinical and in the research context, of the availability of standardized measures. Although in English and some other languages a quantitative, parent-report measure assessing gender-typed behavior in children exists, such a measure is not yet available in Italian. This presentation reports on the development of the Italian version of the Gender Identity Questionnaire for Children (GIQC, Johnson et al., 2004), a 14-item parent-report questionnaire on a Likert scale covering a range of sex-typed behaviors in children. Specifically, a preliminary analysis of its psychometric properties and the first results of the administration to a non-clinical sample will be reported.

An Italian version of the GIQC was developed with the translation/back-translation method, and administered (upon informed consent), with a questionnaire on socio-demographic data, to 1148 mothers of children aged 3-12 (non clinical sample). After making a semantic analysis and checking the score distribution of each item, an exploratory factor analysis (EFA) was performed in order to test the dimensionality of the questionnaire. The results were compared with those of the original study (Johnson et al., 2004). Also the relation between the GIQC scores and the socio-demographic characteristics was tested: more specifically the children's natal sex and age, parent's marital status and birth order were evaluated. Preliminary results indicate that there is a significant difference between boys' and girls' GIQC scores. Moreover, in line with the findings presented in the original study (Johnson et al., 2004), an age effect was found, although more marked in natal boys than in girls, with lower scores in younger children.

Our results suggest that a version of this instrument could be a useful tool for Italian clinicians and researchers.

Keywords: gender identity; gender role; children; assessment

Contact details

Angela Caldarera, Dept. of Psychology, University of Torino, via Po, 14 - 10123 Torino - Italy, e-mail: angelamaria.caldarera@unito.it

3. Psychological support and puberty suppression improve global functioning in transsexual adolescents

Costa R.^{1,2}, Colizzi M.^{2,3}, Skagerberg E.¹, Dunsford M.¹, Holt V.¹ and Carmichael P.¹

Abstract

Puberty suppression in transsexual adolescents is supposed to relieve distress caused by the development of secondary sex characteristics and to provide time to explore young person's gender identity without the distressing effects of puberty.

The aim of this study was to assess the global functioning in a consecutive series of 434 adolescents with Gender Dysphoria evaluated between 2010 and 2014 at the Gender Identity Development Service (GIDS), in London. In a two-year follow-up study we compared the global functioning before and after the beginning of gonadotropin-releasing hormone analogues (GnRHa).

All participants completed the Children's Global Assessment Scale (CGAS) and were assessed every 6 months from the first appointment at the GIDS. These assessments were part of the diagnostic procedure during which eligibility was assessed for puberty suppression. At enrolment each adolescent received psychological support for at least 6 months before starting GnRHa.

At the time of the first appointment the CGAS mean score was 58.51 (SD= 12.73), falling within the "variable functioning with sporadic difficulties or symptoms in several but not all social areas" bracket. Furthermore, transsexual adolescents reported a progressive improvement in the general functioning during the two year follow-up. In particular, there was a significant better functioning after only 6 months of psychological support ($p=.009$). Finally, transsexual adolescents reported a further improvement in the general functioning after the beginning of GnRHa ($p<.001$).

This prospective study showed that transsexual adolescents have a variable functioning at enrolment. Importantly, psychological support as well as sex reassignment procedure improved